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PAHOKEE

The choir of the Methodist church is meeting every Friday night to practice at Mrs. C. A. Bibe's home. J. R. Poland and Dr. E. J. Thomas left for a fishing trip at Blue Cypress lake Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Farnsworth and Mrs. Farnsworth's father, Mr. Williams, motored to Fish Eating Creek Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roberts of West Palm Beach visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Barfield, Sunday.

Mrs. Rebecca Reid and two children, of Homestead are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Cochran, of Pahokee.

Mr. and Mrs. William McDevitt of Arcadia have moved to Pahokee where he is doing country work. They are living in the Hughes on the lake front.

O. Tiffen's new house is near completion. The missionary society of the first church met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. C. A. Bibe. Delicious refreshments of cake and cake were served.

Duncan Padgett and Mrs. Padgett, of Lake Wales, are visiting here. They are visiting in the Hughes on the lake front.

J. James of the Chevrolet and West Palm Beach was a guest Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Flowers and family in Zolfo Springs, whose home was recently destroyed by fire.

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The Swamp Plants of Florida

By Charles Torrey Simmons in Beautiful Florida

Back at the beginning of time, a chain of mountains stretched along the entire eastern coast of what was to be the United States and its eastern slope was washed by the Atlantic ocean. The range ended in what is now northern Alabama and to the westward, a great arm of the sea reached north to Cairo, Illinois. Along the southeastern slope of these mountains, sediment was deposited by the sea when it raised above water became tertiary rocks, the beds reaching north to southern New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

On this deposit of formation, the surface of which became a sandy plain, an interesting and peculiar flora developed. Quite a considerable part of the area became a growth of scattered long-leaved grasses, the floor being thinly covered with various shrubs and herbaceous plants. Here the splendid Magnolia grandiflora was developed in full glory, here the stately live oak reaches its finest development; it is the heart of the southern magnolia grandiflora; the stately cabbage palmetto is confined within the region and is confined to the sea palm.

The greater part of the strange Sarracenia, the Pitcher or Trumpet leaf plants—are developed in immense variety and in immense numbers. There are five of the charming sundew native here, the wonderful Venus fly trap is confined to North and South Carolina. As the region contains much wet land a considerable part of the flora consists of plants of moisture loving vegetation. The entire growth might with propriety be called the long-leaved grasses of the south.

Without doubt, the southern extension of this region is richer in species and individuals of plants than any other region of the United States. More than half of it consists of flat-woods, lying so low that it never becomes dry. The Everglades, covering an area as large as the State of Connecticut, there are swampy prairies, and thousands of lakes and ponds, and a great number of streams. As it ranges through six and a half degrees of latitude it has many forms along its northern part that reach beyond the Ohio river, a vast number of southern species and quite a variety of leaf plants from the West Indies.

The conditions in the swamps are not favorable for ordinary plant life, for the fact that there is but a little oxygen in the bogs or water, and all this wet land vegetation has to have this oxygen in the air. The plants flourish. Why, then, do these plants occupy such situations? Why do they not grow in other parts of the high land where oxygen is abundant?

The earlier forests away back in geologic time, double oaks, live oaks, similar to our pine woods today, but when, later, they became crowded there was a severe struggle for room on the ground, for space, air, and light above. The stronger growths robbed the weaker until the latter were no longer able to remain in the woods. They were driven out into the open and later by the crowding in, less into less desirable places, and finally to the wet ground. As an example we have the sundew family, a group of small plants scattered over the wet, swampy, low-lying land belonging in swamps but a few in Australia living in that dry, hot, and one. Drosophyllum, a Portugal that lives in wetland sands.

Some of these plants which were driven into damp land were gradually pushed on by other plants, and finally, in some cases, they were compelled to live and entirely severed connection with the bottom; they became floaters and their roots drew all their sustenance directly from the water. To this class belong our water lettuce, the Brazilian water hyacinth, the lentil in duck-woods, and some of the bladder-worts. As a result of being driven into this strange environment many of these plants have developed curious organs such as the breathing pores in mangrove roots, the gills of Avicennia which serve much the same purpose, the bladders of some of the butterworts which act as boats and arrangements for catching insects which furnish the plant with the nitrogen that is lacking in the muddy soil.

After this flora was developed and had occupied the land, the glacial epoch came on and a vast cap of ice covered the northern part of the world, reaching down to eastern North America to the Ohio river and about the middle of New Jersey. It either extended or drew before it every vestige of vegetable life; it is probable that immediately in front of it there was an arctic flora while that of our northern states extended well down into Florida. If any tropical vegetation lived before glacial times in our state it was doubtless destroyed by the cold.

As soon as warmer weather came on the ice cap began to melt and the vegetation of the north followed the retreating ice but a large number of plants seemed to have fallen in love with Dixie and concluded they would remain and become good Florida residents. More than 60 species of trees which today live north

where they lived the plant. What can be more strange than to have those sticky bilberry plants, which close on any insect which alights on them? Or the Ceratopteris, a floating fern whose large deeply lobed, dusky fronds become covered with round, bright green little bladders so that it looks as if it had the measles? Later the plant falls in pieces, allowing the little ferns to begin a separate existence. I have scarcely space to tell of the bladder ferns, the butterworts develop to prevent them from sinking or the shoots of others to keep the blades from sinking, these composed of enormously large air filled cells, or the roots of various trees which in wet soil crawl over the surface or double themselves up in loops, erecting tall leafing poles in order that they may carry to the plant above a supply of the precious oxygen. We must not forget the strange water lettuce, an odd and striking plant which floats everywhere in company with the water hyacinth. And there are the Lemnaceae or duckweeds which are the simplest and smallest of flowering plants. The whole thing consists of a succulent root having a root hanging down in the water, propagating itself by budding after the manner of a hyacinth. The plant is a minor is less than a quarter of an inch across and the nearly round leaves are in considerable number. The root to the club mosses is a minute floating plant that looks as if it had been braided.

Some of the plants are widely distributed, the cattails and the common reed which are found over most of North America and Europe, and the water hyacinth and water fern are not with all around the globe. They are old plants which have doubtless been on our soil for many thousands of years and have had abundant time to spread and become established. There is little competition in the wet ground or water, hence a little change, and some of these go on after their age almost without deviation.

I wish I might impress on my readers the great desirability of cultivating many of these strange and beautiful plants. If one has a piece of low ground, no matter how small, it should not be filled in but made into a sanctuary for marsh plants. One end of it might be deepened so that there would be standing water and the earth kept moist and the edges. No matter how large such a spot might be its owner would find that it could be planted with the finest material by making a few trips to the ponds, streams and marshes. Even a pond properly dug in the high land, excavated and planted with these large plants will prove the most attractive spot in a garden and a source of unending pleasure and instruction.

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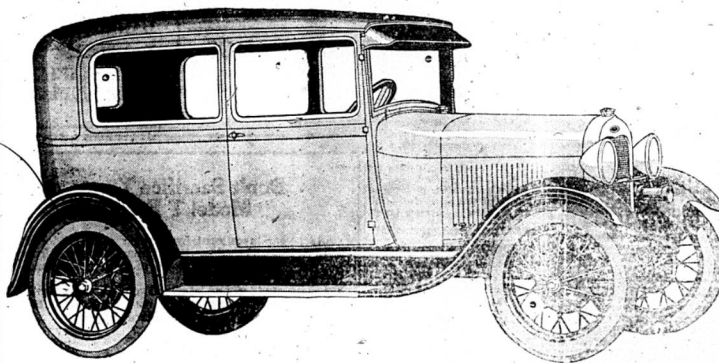
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To the one turning in the largest amount of money from Monday, May 13 to Saturday, May 18, 9 p. m., 500,000 extra votes will be awarded (in addition to the regular votes.) To the one turning in the second largest amount in the same period will be awarded 250,000 extra votes.
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